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PAGE 01

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STATE FOR RCI AND ACDA (MR. MORRISON)

COMMUNIST ARMS-CARRIERS 66-76 (U)

1. AS OF 26 AUG 76, 14 SOVIET CARGO SHIPS ARE ENGAGED IN KNOWN OR
SUSPECTED SEABORNE ARMS-DELIVERIES, AND INCREASE OF ONE SINCE
THE LAST REPORT.

PAGE TWO RUEBJRA7356 ~~SECRET~~ REL NEW ZEALAND/AUSTRALIA/CANADA/
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1. HIGHLIGHT:

A. SOVIET ARMS-DELIVERIES TO CUBA HAVE INCREASED
SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE MID-MAY.

SINCE MID-MAY, 23 SOVIET MERCHANT CARGO SHIPS HAVE
DELIVERED MILITARY-ASSOCIATED CARGO TO CUBA; ONLY
NINE ARMS-DELIVERIES WERE OBSERVED IN THE FIRST
FOUR AND ONE-HALF MONTHS OF 1976. BETWEEN
1969-1973, A TOTAL OF 46 ARMS-DELIVERIES WERE
NOTED TO CUBA; HOWEVER, ARMS-DELIVERIES INCREASED
TO 32 IN 1974 AND TO 44 IN 1975. IT IS NOTED THAT
MOST OF THE MILITARY-ASSOCIATED CARGO SINCE MAY
HAS BEEN DELIVERED IN AMOUNTS OF LESS THAN 1,000
TONS PER SHIP. ALTHOUGH NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY
DECK CARGO WAS NOTED ON ANY OF THESE SHIPS, IT IS
PROBABLE THAT CARGO OF ANY MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE
WOULD BE CARRIED BELOW DECK, PARTICULARLY ON THE
THREE ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF SHIPS WHICH HAVE DELIVERED

~~SECRET~~

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PAGE 02

NC 82215

TOR:270055Z AUG 76

MILITARY CARGO SINCE MAY. DECK CARGO ON ROLL-ON/
ROLL-OFF SHIP AKADEMIK KUPREVICH WAS INITIALLY RE-
PORTED AS CONTAINING EIGHT CANVAS-COVERED POSSIBLE
PAGE THREE RUEBJRA7356 S E C R E T REL NEW ZEALAND/AUSTRALIA/CANADA/
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AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLES; HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENT PHOTO
ANALYSIS DOES NOT REVEAL AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLES ON
DECK. REASONS FOR THIS SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE
NUMBER OF MILITARY DELIVERIES ARE NOT KNOWN;
HOWEVER, ONE POSSIBILITY IS THAT THE DELIVERIES ARE
A PARTIAL REPLACEMENT OF MILITARY SUPPLIES WHICH THE
CUBANS SENT TO ANGOLA.

B. POLNOCNY CLASS MEDIUM LANDING SHIP PROBABLY DELIV-
ERED TO ALGERIA BY SOVIET MECHANT ICEBREAKER
SOVIET MERCHANT ICEBREAKER IVAN MOSKIVITIN (DOBRIN-
YA NIKITICH-CLASS) IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE ARRIVED
AT ORAN, ALGERIA ON 21 AUG AND DEPARTED ON 24 AUG,
PROBABLY AFTER DELIVERING POLNOCNY CLASS MEDIUM
LANDING SHIP (LSM-555). IVAN MOSKIVITIN, WITH THE
LSM IN TOW, DEPARTED THE BALTIC ON 5 AUG AND CALL-
ED AT PLYMOUTH, ENGLAND (12-13 AUG), PROBABLY FOR
BUNKERS, WHILE THE LSM REMAINED OUTSIDE THE HARBOR
AREA. THIS IS THE FIRST SUSPECTED DELIVERY OF AN
AMPHIBIOUS SHIP TO ALGERIA. PREVIOUS DELIVERIES OF
THIS CLASS LSM HAVE BEEN MADE TO EGYPT, ADEN, IN-
PAGE FOUR RUEBJRA7356 S E C R E T REL NEW ZEALAND/AUSTRALIA/CANADA/
UNITED KINGDOM

DONESIA AND INDIA.
C. SHANGHAI II CLASS MOTOR GUNBOATS (PGM) DELIVERED
TO UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON BY CHICOM MERSHIP
CHICOM MERSHIP DANING (DADE-CLASS, 12625 DWT) DE-
LIVERED TWO SHANGHAI II CLASS MOTOR GUNBOATS (PGM)
TO DOUALA, CAMEROON BETWEEN 16 JUL-6 AUG. DANING
DEPARTED CHINA APPROXIMATELY MID-JUN, CALLED AT
PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS BETWEEN 30 JUN-3 JUL FOR EN-
GINE REPAIRS AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SIGHTED ENTERING
THE ATLANTIC VIA THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE ON 8 JUL
WITH DECK CARGO OF TWO CANVAS-COVERED SHANGHAI
CLASS GUNBOATS AND TWO CANVAS-COVERED UNIDENTIFIED
CRAFT. IN ADDITION, 15 CHINESE TECHNICIANS ARRIVED

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